

Chapter – 9

The Great Stone Face – I

Comprehension Check

Q1. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.

1. The Great Stone Face stood near where Ernest and his mother lived. _____
2. One would clearly distinguish the features of the Stone Face only from a distance. _____
3. Ernest loved his mother and helped her in her work. _____
4. Though not very rich, Gather gold was a skilful merchant. _____
5. Gather gold died in poverty and neglect. _____
6. The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Ernest should not fear the general. _____

Answer. 1. False The Great Stone Face stood miles away from where Ernest and his mother lived.

2. True

3. True

4. False, Gather gold was very rich.

5. True

6. False, The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Earnest should not lose heart, but believe that the man whose face resembled the Great Stone Face would come.

Working With The Text

Q1. Answer the following questions. 1. (i) What was the Great Stone Face?

(ii) What did young Ernest wish when he gazed at it?

Answer. (i) The Great Stone Face was a work of nature. It was formed on the perpendicular side of a mountain by some immense rocks that had been thrown

together so that when viewed at a proper distance, they resembled the features of a human face.

(ii) Gazing at the Great Stone Face, young Ernest wished that it could speak because it looked so very kindly that he thought its voice must be pleasant. He also said that if he ever saw a man with such a face, he would love him very much.

Q2. What was the story attributed to the Stone Face?

Answer. The story that was attributed to the Stone Face was that at some future day, a child would be born near there, and he would be destined to become the greatest and noblest person of his time. His face, in manhood, would bear an exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face.

Q3. What gave the people of the valley the idea that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time?

Answer. The people got the idea that the prophecy was about to come true from a rumour that went throughout the valley. The rumour was that the great man, who was to bear a resemblance to the Great Stone Face, had appeared at last. Many years before, a young man named Gathergold had left the valley and settled at a distant seaport. He had set up as a shopkeeper and being sharp in business matters, had become so rich that it would have taken him a hundred years only to count his wealth. In time, he thought of his native valley, and decided to go back there and end his days where he had been born. The people believed that this was the prophesied man.

Q4. (i) Did Ernest see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face? (ii) Who did he confide in and how was he proved right?

Answer. (i) No, Ernest did not see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face.

(ii) He confided in the Great Stone Face. When everybody else believed that Gathergold resembled the Stone Face, he turned away from the wrinkled shrewdness of that unpleasant face and gazed up the valley, where the Stone Face seemed to say "He will come! Fear not, Ernest; the man will come!"

He was proved right when later Gathergold died and was buried. His wealth, which was the body and spirit of his existence, had disappeared before his death. Since the time he lost his gold, it had been generally agreed that there was no likeness between him and the majestic face upon the mountain.

Working With Language

Q1. Look at the following words. like - likeness Punctual - punctuality The words on the left are adjectives and those on the right are their noun forms. Write the noun forms of the following words by adding -ness or -ity to them appropriately. Check the spelling of the new words.

(i) lofty _____ (vi) enormous
_____ (ii) able _____ (vii) pleasant _____ (iii)

happy _____ (viii) dense _____ (iv) near _____ (ix)
great _____ (v) noble _____ (x) stable _____

Answer. (i) lofty loftiness (ii) able ability (iii) happy happiness (iv) near nearness (v) noble nobility (vi) enormous enormity (vii) pleasant pleasantness (viii) dense density (ix) great greatness (x) stable stability.

Q2. Add -ly to each of the following adjectives, then use them to fill in the blanks.

perfect near kind pleasant eager

(i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were _____ waiting for you. (ii) _____ write your name and address in capital letters. (iii) I was _____ surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming. (iv) It is _____ believable that I am not responsible for this mess. (v) He fell over the step and _____ broke his arm.

Answer. (i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were eagerly waiting for you.

(ii) Kindly write your name and address in capital letters.

(iii) I was pleasantly surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming.

(iv) It is perfectly believable that I am not responsible for this mess.

(v) He fell over the step and nearly broke his arm.

Q3. Complete each sentence below using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets. (i) I _____ (phone) you when I _____ (get) home from school. (ii) Hurry up! Madam _____ (be) annoyed if we _____ (be) late. (iii) If it _____ (rain) today, we _____ (not) go to the play. (iv) When you _____ (see) Mandal again, you _____ (not/recognise) him. He is growing a beard. (v) We are off today. We _____ (write) to you after we _____ (be) back.

Answer. (i) I will phone you when I will get home from school.

(ii) Hurry up! Madam will be annoyed if we are late.

(iii) If it rains today, we will not go to the play.

(iv) When you see Mandal again, you will not recognize him. He is growing a beard.

(v) We are off today. We will write to you after we are back.

Speaking And Writing

Q1. Imagine you are Ernest. Narrate the story that his mother told him. Begin like this: My mother and I were sitting at the door of our cottage. We were looking at the Great Stone Face. I asked her if she had ever seen anyone who looked like the Stone Face. Then she told me this story.

Answer. She had heard that story from her own Mother that someday a child would be born resembling the Stone Face. In manhood he would become the greatest and noblest person of his time.

Q2. Imagine you are Gather gold. Write briefly the incident of your return to the valley.

Begin like this: My name is Gather gold. I left the valley of the Great Stone Face fifty years ago. I am now going back home. Will the people of the valley welcome me? Do they know that I am very rich?

Answer. I drove to my native village in a horse drawn carriage. The people mistook me for the Great Stone Face. They welcomed me and shouted, "Sure enough, the old prophecy is true and the great man has arrived at last".